



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Flood Protection Project: Park River at Grafton, N.D.



Downtown Grafton, N.D., flooded in 1979

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Location/Description

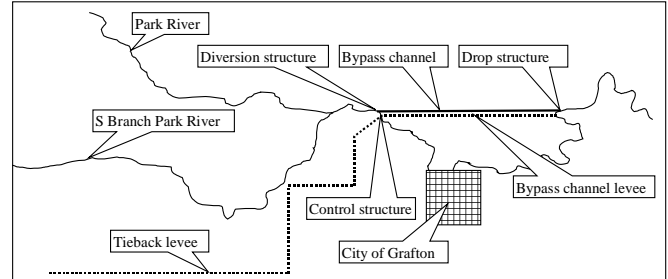
The city of Grafton is located in Walsh County in northeastern North Dakota along the Park River, a tributary of the Red River of the North. The city is about 340 miles northwest of Minneapolis – St. Paul, Minn.

Status

The Army Corps of Engineers initiated a General Reevaluation Report (GRR) in January 2000. The GRR reevaluated the plan presented in the "General Design Memorandum Phase I and Final Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement, Park River at Grafton, North Dakota," January 1983. The GRR is scheduled for completion in February 2002; the first stage of plans and specifications would be prepared in 2002; and construction could begin in 2003.

Additional

In the past, recurrent flooding along the South Branch Park River and the main stem Park River has caused significant problems for Grafton. The 1950 largest flood of record inundated almost the entire city. The project location and the major features presented in the January 1983 report are shown in diagram in the next column.



The 1983 plan was designed to protect the city against a Standard Project Flood. Key features included:

- A 3.75-mile bypass channel to carry flows in excess of 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) past the city. Flows up to 2,000 cfs would be carried by the Park River's natural channel through Grafton.
- Tieback and bypass channel levees to prevent over-bank flooding from inundating the city.

The GRR will account for considerable new development that has occurred in and around the city since the 1983 plan was issued. In addition, the GRR will reanalyze the hydrology in light of the flood events that have occurred since the 1983 report.

Authority

Water Resources Development Act of 1986 authorized the construction of a flood control project on the Park River at Grafton. The project was subsequently deauthorized on Nov. 18, 1991. However, in response to the seriousness of the 1997 flood, the city council passed a resolution on Dec. 19, 1997, expressing willingness to enter into a cost-sharing agreement for the project. Subsequently, Section 364 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (WRDA), Public Law 106-53, reauthorized the project.

Fiscal

The fiscal 2000 GRR start-up provided \$100,000 of federal funds. \$875,000 in federal funds is available for continuation of the GRR in fiscal 2001. The estimated total cost for project engineering, design, and construction is \$28.1 million, indexed upward from the cost estimate in the 1983 report. The federal and non-federal shares are 65 percent/35 percent, respectively. However, during the pre-construction engineering and design (PED) phase, the non-federal sponsor will contribute 25 percent, with the remaining 10 percent due during the first year of construction. Once construction is completed and the project is turned over to the sponsor, operation and maintenance costs will be 100 percent non-federal.